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EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Personnel

1945  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
No. 25

Vol. 1

June 7, 1944

No. 25



WAR PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND

The USDA Post No. 36 of the American Legion is sponsoring a drive to furnish 1,000 sets of chessmen, chess boards and books on the game to Americans who are prisoners in prison camps and hospitals in Germany. Contributions are on a purely voluntary basis, and will go directly to the War Prisoners' Relief Fund. These articles will be forwarded through the War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA on neutral Red Cross ships, under the supervision of the International Red Cross Committee.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, you may do so by getting in touch with Mr. H. H. Holland on Ext. 3775, or Mr. W. A. Pagnotta, Ext. 3028.

CHESS PLAYERS

On Friday, June 9, at 5:30, all who are interested in playing, or learning to play, the Royal Game of Chess are invited to meet in Rm. 124 E.

Mr. Herbert Holland, Solicitors' Office, will organize the Department Chess Club to be sponsored by the USDA Athletic and Recreation Association. Mr. Holland has been a chess enthusiast for a number of years. When a member of the Bell Telephone Laboratories Staff of New York City, he played on the chess team which competed with Western Electric Chess team of Chicago by teletype.

Chess, one of the oldest games known, is supposed to have originated in India before the Christian era. It was brought west by the Mohammedans into North Africa and by the Moors into Spain. In mediaeval times it spread north throughout all of Europe and into the British Isles. It is a fascinating game because its beautiful combinations are inexhaustible.

A cordial invitation is hereby extended to any person who desires to learn the game to attend Friday's meeting. A number of sets similar to those being sent to our prisoners of war in Germany will be available for practice, but if you own a set, please bring it. We are not urging you experts to attend--we are confidently  
you. Call Ext. 3775.

## DR. STOCKBERGER

On June 13, 1903, a young man, a university teacher from Ohio was appointed an expert on dry and medicinal plants in BPI, at \$1200 a year. On May 27, 1944, that young man, now 71 years of age, a collaborator of the Department, serving without compensation, died in Washington, D. C. The man was Warner W. Stockberger and he was not only a scientific expert, but he also lived to put personality into Government personnel work in Washington. He was the Government's pioneer personnel director.

His record should be an inspiration to every employee. It is a long one of continuous promotions. As early as January 12, 1909, his chief of bureau, commenting to the Secretary on his excellent scientific work, remarked that "he has shown ability to made things go." He thus early displayed administrative and other qualifications quite apart from his scientific expertness. His career demonstrates that ability and initiative are rewarded in the Government service; and that a man can even make so great a change in occupation as that from histologist to Director of Personnel and succeed fully.

Dr. Stockberger was a gentleman and a scholar. Friendly, human, master of the apt word, phrase, and illustration in writing and in speaking, endlessly devoted to this great institution, the Department of Agriculture. Bon voyage!

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## RETIRED

The fact that Miss Katherine Joyce has made a host of good friends during her years in the Department was amply demonstrated on Saturday, May 13, when nearly 300 of them gathered in the BAE conference room to greet her, a few days after her retirement. Long service in BAE had been followed by a year in OFAR where she went when Mr. Englund transferred there.

The conference room was transformed by a wealth of spring flowers. Coffee and iced lemonade were served. Old friends came from EAB, OD, OFAR, and other units, making a reunion of the occasion.

## MEN NEEDED, JUNE 5--17

The farmers in Fairfax Co., Va., are desperately in need of men to help harvest hay from June 5 to June 17. This is an emergency call.

If you can work for a day (how about Sunday, June 11?) or more (are you taking your vacation between these dates?), please call Mr. J. W. Jones, Farm Labor Recruitment Officer of the Agri. Extension Service on DI. 7000, ext. 378. You will be paid at the rate of 50¢ an hour. If you wish to drive your car to the farms, Mr. Jones furnishes supplemental gas applications. Those who can spend only a day, should take their lunches, but if you wish to spend several days arrangements will be made for your meals and sleeping quarters at a boarding house in Herndon, Va. Remember:

FOOD FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM



## GOLF NEWS

Golfers, have you taken full advantage of Rock Creek Golf Course which is now open from sunrise to sunset every day in the week. To reach take S2 bus to 16th and Underwood Sts., and walk to course. There is a small charge to use the course. You may rent clubs if you don't possess them. No reservations. Tickets may be purchased at the course. The Anacostia Course has the same schedule. To reach take Anacostia or Congress Heights bus on Pennsylvania Ave. to 5th and Nichols Ave. Meet your friends for an early game of golf.

## AGRICULTURE PLAYERS

Missing in Action, the war drama based on the experiences of a gunner in a Flying Fortress, will be presented in the Department Auditorium soon. The cast has been selected and is rehearsing almost nightly to whip the play into shape. Characters are:

Vicky Locke--Emily Peters, SCS  
Ann Campbell--Drallia Connolly, FDA  
Mrs. Locke--Betty Boyles, Pers.  
Sgt. Jack Martin--Del Ralph, Pers.  
Oberlieut. Schmidt--Harry Kabat, L&F

It's the first production of the Agriculture Players, the new dramatic group organized by the Division of Personnel Relations and Safety and sponsored by the Athletic Recreation Association. All acting, directing, set designing, costuming, and staging will be done by employees of the Department.

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FIGHT WASTE::

CONSERVE AND SALVAGE!!

## AGRICULTURE FIFTH WAR LOAN NIGHT

JUNE 12

Agriculture has been given the official opening night--June 12, 8:00 p.m., to see "Flying Varieties," an Army Air Force show, on the Monument Grounds. This particular show is said to have the best professional entertainers now in the armed forces.

A large stage, approximately 100 feet wide, will be built on the slope facing the Monument. Those attending can sit on the ground and be able to see the stage. (No admission fee but a cushion is a good bet!)

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School's Summer Session begins on June 12, and lasts for a period of ten weeks. Courses on both graduate and undergraduate levels are available. Register at any time before the course begins, at the Graduate School Office, Room 1031. Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:20 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## PRISONER OF WAR BULLETIN AVAILABLE

The "Prisoners of War Bulletin," a magazine published by the American Red Cross for relatives of American prisoners of war, will be sent free of charge to close relatives of American prisoners of war. Any employees in the Department who are eligible to receive this magazine and as yet have not, contact Mr. Gilbert Redfern, Editor, at the American Red Cross Hdqs., RE. 8300, Ext. 412, to have your name placed on the mailing list.

## NEWS FROM ITALY

Sgt. Kenneth R. Powell, a former employee of the Forest Service, writes from Italy as follows:

"During the recent eruptions of Mt. Vesuvius, I had an opportunity to get leave to visit the scene of action. The volcano was belching cinders and hot ashes 10,000 feet or more in the air. Each time I could feel the earth shake beneath me, and the rumble sounded like bombs bursting. At night, the hot lava flow lighted the entire mountain side.

"While in the area, I also visited the ruins of Pompeii, covered by ashes from the same volcano in the years before Christ. Much of the city has been uncovered by archaeologists and the marks of Roman cart wheels of former days can still be seen on the cobble stones. It was surprising, too, to see the paintings of Roman scenery still clearly visible on the homes of the upper classes."

## VACATION CAMPS FOR CHILDREN

Employees of the Department who are interested in placing children between two and eighteen years of age in summer camps in Washington, D. C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania or New Jersey may secure information on names and locations of camps, sessions, fees, special requirements, sponsoring organizations, directors' names, etc., by calling Ext. 3105.

## BORROW FROM YOUR CREDIT UNION

Do you know that the Agricultural Employees' Credit Union will loan its members money for doctor bills, dentist bills, hospital bills, automobile repairs, home repairs, furniture, household appliances, clothing, taxes, insurance premiums, educational expenses, vacation expenses, funeral expenses, investments, consolidation of debts - and for any other purpose which will help the member financially?

Cost of money borrowed from the Credit Union in amounts up to \$300 is substantially less than charged by usual legal small loan institutions. For example, \$100 borrowed to be repaid in three equal monthly installments costs \$1.00 the first month, 67¢ the second month, and 33¢ the third month.

Apply for membership in your Credit Union in Room 1921, South Bldg.

## HOSTESS TRAINING COURSE

Another Hostess Training Course will start at Friendship House, 619 D Street, S. E., on June 26, and will meet every Monday night at 7:30 for six weeks.

There is a registration fee of 25¢ required of all girls taking the course which will enable them to receive a Hostess card from the Office of Civilian Defense upon completion of the course. This card will admit girls to the dances at Friendship House every Tuesday and Saturday nights.

To register, call Lincoln 6202.

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